

MISCELLANY

Items for the News column must be furnished by the twentieth of the preceding month. Under this department are grouped: News; Medical Economics; Correspondence; Department of Public Health; California Board of Medical Examiners; and Twenty-five Years Ago. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

The Tri-State Section of the American College of Surgeons will meet in Oakland on April 25 and 26, 1931.

Postgraduate Course, San Francisco Heart Committee of the San Francisco County Medical Society. The San Francisco Heart Committee which was organized in January 1930, with Dr. William J. Kerr as chairman, has just completed an interesting postgraduate course on heart disease. This course was given without fee and was arranged by the subcommittee on Education and Publicity, of which Dr. John P. Strickler is chairman. There was a total attendance of 356 doctors, and sixty-five cities of California were represented in this number. Many expressions of appreciation for the course were received from the registrants, and it is the hope of the committee to offer a similar course each year.

Tuesday, December 9, the clinic was held at University of California Hospital, Dr. William J. Kerr presiding; Wednesday, December 10, Stanford University Hospital under Dr. Arthur L. Bloomfield, and on Thursday, December 11, Letterman General Hospital, the Presidio, Major W. C. Munly, M. D., presiding.

Meeting of Pacific Coast Surgical Association.—The coming meeting of the Pacific Coast Surgical Association will convene on February 27 and 28, 1931, at Victoria, B. C.

Dr. P. J. Hanzlik, professor of pharmacology in the Stanford University School of Medicine, San Francisco, gave a series of lectures in southern California from December 16 to 19. The series included lectures on bismuth compounds in antisyphilitic therapy, metallothrapy of edema, intravenous therapy, and colloidal dyes in intoxications and will be delivered before the San Diego Academy of Medicine, Long Beach Academy of Medicine and Galen Club, and Los Angeles Hewlett Club.

The New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital opened its new private pavilion and operating rooms December 29 and 30. The appointments of Dr. George D. Stewart as consulting surgeon and Doctors Evan Evans, Orrin S. Wightman and C. N. B. Camac as consulting physicians to the hospital have been announced.

Former Hooper Foundation Director Receives Prize.—Dr. George H. Whipple, who was director of the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research in the Medical School of the University of California from 1914 to 1921 was recently honored by being selected to receive part of the annual award of the *Popular Science Monthly* for the current advancement of science to the greatest benefit of the public. The award was given for the effective service rendered in the treatment of pernicious anemia.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO *

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. IV, No. 1, January 1906

From some editorial notes:

A Nice Business.—The business of making nostrums and foisting them upon the medical profession first, and in that way upon the people later, is a particularly nice, clean, and honorable one—perhaps. At any rate it is an extensive calling, and represents the investment of a good deal of capital in—shall we say, fraud? Believing that some of our members possibly do not see as many medical journals as come through our office, we have taken the liberty of reproducing some of their advertising pages so that you may see for yourselves what sort of valuable and beneficent products are presented to the medical profession—a profession that is supposed to be made up of educated, thinking men. . . .

. . . Explain to your friends and patients that practically every newspaper in the United States is a silent partner in the nostrum fraud business. That it is bound to silence and to aid in defrauding the people into using alcoholic nostrums by the following clauses in its advertising contracts with the nostrum trust:

First: It is agreed in case any law or laws are enacted, either state or national, harmful to the interests of the ———, that this contract may be cancelled by them from date of such enactment, and the insertions paid for pro rata with the contract price. . . .

From an article by Doctor McCormack of Kentucky on Organization of the Medical Profession:

Most of the meetings of county medical societies in the past, and many at the present time, are not of very great value. In too many instances the proceedings will be about as follows: A summary of minutes will be read, and then Doctor Blank will be called upon to read a paper. This is liable to be upon the treatment of typhoid fever, proper management of labor, or, if it is in the spring, on the summer diarrhea of infants. The paper is made up of extracts from some long-since antiquated textbook, and both it and the author should have had several new editions brought out to bring it up to date. After the paper is read there will be a profound silence, until the presiding officer states that the paper is now before the society and calls upon Doctor X to open the discussion. Doctor X arises and his discussion is apt to be about as follows: "Mr. President and fellow members, I fear that I have not been so regular an attendant at the meetings of our county society in the past as I should have been. But when I listen to such an excellent paper as has been presented to us tonight by Doctor Blank, I feel that I shall be more regular in the future. Doctor Blank has presented such a masterly paper and has placed the information so clearly before you that there seems to me to be nothing left that I can add to what he has said. I will therefore ask you to excuse me and call upon some other member, who may possibly be able to add to the subject under discussion." That sort of a meeting is almost enough to make any studious and

* This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of state society work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and recent members.

hard-working physician keep away from his county society more industriously than ever.

By contrast, consider what a county society should do, and what a few are doing at the present time. Its secret of success is in work. . . .

From an article on "The Spirocheta Pallida" by Sanford Blum, M.D., San Francisco:

The *Spirocheta pallida* was first recognized by Schaudin in a smear preparation obtained from a secondary syphilitic papule in March 1905. The preparation was examined fresh and the Spirocheta was first observed in its motile state. Subsequently Schaudin and Hoffman succeeded in staining the organism and studied it also in the colored preparation. . . .

From an article on "The Relation of Bacteria to the Development of Gall Stones—A Report of Experimental Studies, with a Review of the Literature" by August Jerome Lartigau, San Francisco:

The results of recent experimental studies upon the relation of bacteria to the formation of gall stones have been sufficiently striking to justify newer points of view of the pathogenesis of this disease. It is now definitely known that the phenomena involved in the development of cholelithiasis are closely related to bacterial infection of the gall bladder. . . .

San Francisco County.—At the regular meeting for December, Doctor Rixford, the president, in the chair, Dr. Thomas W. Huntington presented a patient upon whom he had operated, trephining and tunneling into the head of the femur for supposed beginning hip-joint disease, and read a paper upon this operation. It was extensively discussed by several members, all of whom seemed to differ with the author as to the value of advisability of the operation in the condition named. . . .

. . . . The board of directors met in the office of the state society, Y. M. C. A. Building, Tuesday evening, December 19, and elected the following officers of the society for the ensuing year: President, Wallace I. Terry; first vice-president, Henry Gibbons, Jr.; second vice-president, Harold Brunn; treasurer, Emmet Rixford; secretary, H. E. Alderson.

MUCH IN LITTLE *

A knowledge of anatomical anomalies saves embarrassment in the operating room.

The most common admission of ignorance is a diagnosis of neurasthenia.

Many patients have lost their appendix and gall bladder when the underlying pathology was subcostal neuralgia or spinal cord tumor.

Iritis and conjunctivitis are not synonymous, though often treated as such; even the eye withstands many insults.

Non-surgical drainage of the gall bladder allows the source of income to remain intact.

The self-made surgeon marks his trail with granite; a five-year assistantship would postpone many funerals.

The habit of regular defecation surpasses all other regulators of the bowel.

Brevity and precision in word selection adds much to any scientific writing.

* Members of the California, Nevada and Utah Medical Associations are invited to contribute to this column of aphorisms, which will appear from time to time in California and Western Medicine, as sufficient copy accumulates. The aphorisms in this issue were sent in by John Hunt Shephard, M. D., San Jose.

LEGISLATION

The members of the Seventy-first Congress, from the states of California, Nevada, and Utah, are as indicated below. (See reference to this list in editorial on Shepard-Towner Acts in this number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 58.)

Each of these may be addressed care of United States Senate or United States House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

California Senators

Hiram W. Johnson Samuel M. Shortridge

California Congressmen

Clarence F. Lea	Henry E. Barbour
Harry L. Englebright	Arthur M. Free
Charles F. Curry	W. E. Evans
Mrs. Florence P. Kahn	Joe Crail
Richard J. Welch	Philip D. Swing
Albert E. Carter	

Nevada Senators

Key Pittman Tasker L. Oddie

Nevada Congressman

Samuel S. Arentz

Utah Senators

William H. King Reed Smoot

Utah Congressmen

Don B. Colton Elmer O. Leatherwood

CORRESPONDENCE

Subject of Following Letter: Earliest Records of "Copyrights"

Beginning in the July 1930 number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, Professor Rosenberg contributed three articles to the Lure of Medical History column, on the subject of "Sixteenth Century German Medicine." In the July number, page 509, comment was made on the presumable copyright of the "Artzneybuch." The enclosed letter bears on this subject, and as a matter of historical interest is here reprinted:

Los Angeles, December 17, 1930.

Mr. William Brown.
Registrar U. S. Copyright Office,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Brown:

Some weeks ago I mailed you a copy of my article "Sixteenth Century German Medicine," being a reprint of my paper in the July, August, and September issues (1930) of California and Western Medicine. On page 9 of this brochure your letter to the editor of the magazine, Dr. George H. Kress, is printed with regard to the early examples of copyright which the sixteenth century book I discuss appears to represent:

"It does not appear that copyright in the modern sense of the term existed in any country during medieval or late medieval times. There was a system of licensing by the Crown for the printing of books, but this was mainly to raise revenue and exercise censorship. The first real copyright enactment for the protection of authors was the well-known British Statute of Anne entitled 'An Act for the Encouragement of Learning,' passed in 1710."

In view of your statement, it may interest you what Dr. Charles Singer, the eminent medical historian who lectured in this country during the present year, has to say on the subject. He writes me from London under date of November 18:

"... Just one little point. A system of 'copyright' held within the Empire from about 1515 onward. The Emperor gave exclusive right to one man to print a particular book. The earliest medical book to secure this copyright that is known to me is the 1519 Vienna *Alsharavius*. But I dare say that there are others earlier."

I thought you might be glad to have this information.

With best wishes of the season,

Cordially yours,

S. L. MILLARD ROSENBERG,
Professor of Spanish in the University of
California at Los Angeles.